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Chairman: Mr. KARUKUBIRO-KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued) (A/SPC/45/L.36)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document A/SPC/45/L.36 on programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.26.

AGENDA ITEM 75: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued) (A/SPC/45/84, 306, 576, 608, 610, 611, 612, 613 and 614)

2. Mr. AL-KHULAIFI (Qatar) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/45/576) had shown a deterioration of conditions in the occupied territories during the period under review and an alarming increase in tension and violence as a result of the Israeli Government's oppressive policies towards the Arab inhabitants, especially those who opposed Israeli practices through their fearless uprising (intifadah), now in its fourth year. Since the beginning of the uprising, there had been some thousand dead and tens of thousands of wounded. Occupation troops shot randomly and used tear-gas to quell demonstrators, strikers and stone-throwers and used indiscriminate force against innocent bystanders. An Israeli human rights group had reported over 600 shot dead, often in defiance of orders. The Palestinian uprising had induced the occupation forces to step up their repressive measures. Israel continued to inflict collective punishments, demolish houses, impose curfews, collect taxes and prevent the export of Palestinian produce in order to ruin the economy of the occupied territories. It arrested Palestinians and seized Palestinian property in order to build settlements for new immigrants. Settlers were neither deterred from nor punished for taking part in violent actions against Palestinians. The latest example of Israeli violence had been the shooting of 20 Palestinians on the Haram al-Sharif in October, condemned by the international community in Security Council resolution 672 (1990), which called upon Israel to abide by the fourth Geneva Convention. The nub of the problem was that Israel persisted in defying the international will and stubbornly refused to co-operate with either the Special Committee or the Secretary-General by implementing Security Council resolutions. It thwarted all attempts to alleviate tension in the region. There would be no final solution to the problem as long as the occupation remained in force and the Palestinian people did not recover its legitimate rights, its land and its possessions.

3. Mr. SMERAL (Czechoslovakia) noted that, because of their own experience, the Czechoslovaks attached great importance to respect for human rights. Regrettably, the positive changes taking place in the world had not necessarily brought about respect for the fundamental rights of peoples everywhere. In the occupied Arab territories, for example, violence occurred in the form of gross crackdowns and the use of rubber bullets and tear-gas against demonstrators, resulting in serious injuries and even loss of life. Israel should comply strictly with its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

(Mr. Smeral, Czechoslovakia)

4. Following the extremely unfortunate events of 8 October, Czechoslovakia had registered a protest through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His delegation fully endorsed Security Council resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990). Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the incidents of 8 October (S/21919), he expressed his delegation's concern over Israel's refusal to receive the Secretary-General's mission and agreed that practical steps must be taken in order to ensure the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians living under Israeli occupation.

5. All parties involved had a responsibility to reduce the violence in the occupied territories. What was needed was a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem, based on the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to exist within safe, recognized and guaranteed borders, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and justice for all peoples in the region. That included recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination. An International Peace Conference under United Nations auspices would be an appropriate mechanism for achieving such a settlement.

6. Mr. JELBAN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) referred to the report and noted the deterioration of human rights, including the basic right to life, in the occupied territories. The Israeli forces had intensified their repressive measures in the last three years in the face of growing Palestinian protest and the continuation of the intifadah. That had resulted in the loss of 1,300 Palestinian lives, including children, 91,150 injuries, 100,000 detainees and the deportation of 61 Palestinians contrary to the fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolution 605 (1987).

7. By expelling Arabs, expropriating their properties and terrorizing them, Israel was furthering its own policy of expansion in order to accomodate a growing number of Soviet Jewish immigrants. Territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, the Syrian Arab Golan and other occupied Arab territories, contained 130,000 Jews, and the trend towards settlement showed no sign of reversing. Such settlements violated the fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolution 465 (1980). Indeed, the most recent policies pursued by the Zionist entity unmasked its arrogance, its racist and colonialist intentions and its contempt for United Nations resolutions.

8. Mr. INBAR (Israel), speaking on a point of order, said that, in the United Nations, his country was referred to as the State of Israel.

9. Mr. JELBAN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the problem of the Palestinian people stemmed from the denial of their inalienable rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Increasingly, they were subject to acts of deportation and restrictions on their freedom of expression, worship, movement, education and to the closure of universities, curfews and assaults on schools and hospitals. Israel had refused to receive the Secretary-General's fact-finding mission dispatched to investigate the events of 8 October on the pretext that Jerusalem was its sovereign

(Mr. Jelban, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

capital. The Secretary-General's report to the Security Council (S/21919) stressed that the Palestinians felt targeted at all times, in places of work and worship, in schools and in the streets. They did not even feel safe in their own homes.

10. The uprising was a reaction to the Zionist occupier's arrogance and an expression of the Palestinian people's determination to survive and exercise their right of self-determination. It also manifested their desire to end their suffering as a consequence of excessive racist and terrorist practices in the occupied territories. In witnessing the uprising, the international community had come to realize more clearly the tragedy suffered by the Palestinian people and the true nature of the racist entity which disguised itself as a model of democracy in the Middle East. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) equating zionism with racism. In conclusion, the only genuine solution to the plight of the Palestinian people was the establishment of a Palestinian State in which Jews, Christians and Muslims could live as equals. That alone would restore peace in the Middle East.

11. Mr. SIDOROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee's consideration of the agenda item at the current session coincided with a worsening of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The information presented by the Special Committee in its latest report showed a pattern of gross violations of human rights by Israel. Israel continued to ignore the condemnations and injunctions of the United Nations, as had been demonstrated most recently by its refusal to carry out the provisions of Security Council resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990). Its continued refusal to soften its position ran counter to the prevailing world trend towards the solution of problems on the basis of political settlements. It was particularly disturbing that the Israeli Government planned to settle immigrants, including immigrants from the Soviet Union, in the occupied territories. In doing so Israel was ignoring the repeated warnings of the United Nations against altering the situation in the occupied territories, including the demographic situation. That policy violated the norms of international law, including the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to which Israel was a signatory. The responsibility for such actions and their consequences lay with Israel.

12. The way to solve the problem of the Middle East was on the basis of a balance of interests of all the parties concerned and strict respect for the right of all the peoples of the region to self-determination. Strict respect for human rights and compliance with the Geneva Convention and the other norms of international law, including the provisions of the United Nations Charter, by Israel would help to lower the level of tension in the area and create the conditions necessary for the beginning of practical work to initiate a peace process. The speedy and just settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict was in accordance with the vital interests of all the peoples of the region, and the road to such a settlement lay through an International Peace Conference. His country would continue to work for such a solution.

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13. Mr. GÜVEN (Turkey) said that the fate of the peoples of the Middle East was of particular interest to Turkey. He noted a tendency to take a simplistic approach to the very complex question of Palestine. In reality, the question encompassed not only refugees or human rights violations, but also a serious political problem which affected the very stability of the Middle East. A comprehensive solution, however, was far preferable to breaking down the question into its various components and attempting to deal with each one in isolation. In that context, his delegation welcomed initiatives aimed at alleviating the plight of the Palestinian people, which, none the less, must not be taken as a substitute for resolving the underlying political problem. A lasting and equitable solution to the question of Palestine was contingent on the withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories it had occupied since 1967, the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the recognition of the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to live in secure and internationally recognized borders.

14. The report of the Special Committee (A/45/576) indicated that the level of tension and violence in the occupied territories had risen as a result of the increasingly repressive measures used by Israeli authorities against the Palestinians. It seemed to complete the findings contained in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council (S/21919) and the information provided by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The use of harsh measures to suppress the intifadah, including deportation, large-scale arrests, raids on homes and villages, curfews and the confiscation of property, constituted a flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention.

15. The report also referred to serious failures in the administration of justice, including arrest without charges for preventive or administrative detention, dual punishment, poor treatment of prisoners and banishment. In addition, the prolonged closure of academic institutions would lower academic standards and adversely affect the behaviour of young Palestinians. Constant fear of aggression by Israeli soldiers would have a long-term traumatic effect on young people. As States could not choose their neighbours, the Israeli authorities must recognize the Palestinians as their eternal neighbours and formulate their policies accordingly. Referring to the incidents of 8 October at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, his delegation supported the conclusions contained in paragraph 486 of the Special Committee's report. It also welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990) as a first step in ensuring the protection of Palestinians. His delegation supported the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 672 (1990) (S/21919).

16. Mr. ALSAIDI (Yemen) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/45/576) contained a wealth of information on the incompatibility of Israeli practices in the occupied territories with customary international humanitarian law. Israel's occupation of those territories was itself a violation of law, but it had now gone beyond occupation to the annexation of those territories. Meanwhile, the international community seemed completely unable to compel Israel to respect human

(Mr. Alsaidi, Yemen)

rights and the resolutions of the United Nations on the question. Israel not only refused to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions but even to deal with the Security Council, as it had proved by its rejection of Security Council resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990). It was time for the Security Council to deal appropriately with Israel by requesting that it comply fully and immediately with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and with the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and that it desist from obstructing the work of UNRWA and the International Committee of the Red Cross. It was now, moreover, imperative to convene a conference of the signatories to the fourth Geneva Convention in order to take steps to enforce it and for the United Nations to use its facilities in the Middle East to monitor the situation in the occupied territories with a view to the protection of the Palestinians. However, all those actions could only be transitional, as the sole ultimate solution to the problem was for Israel to respect human rights in the occupied territories, end its occupation and allow the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent State.

17. Mr. MARTINEZ CORDOVEZ (Cuba) said that violations by the Israeli occupying authorities had acquired a new dimension. Beyond its flagrant breach of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, Israel was challenging Security Council decisions which it was bound to honour under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations. The occupying authorities' policy, designed to uproot the Palestinian people and quell its resistance movement, was based on a preconceived plan which included repressive legislation, daily killings, massive arbitrary arrests, torture and the destruction of homes. With the proliferation of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, the policy also sought to induce demographic changes which would further its aims of incorporating the occupied territories in the State of Israel.

18. The reports of the Special Committee (A/45/84, A/45/306 and A/45/576) depicted the real situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The video, filmed by an independent observer and viewed by the Security Council, several days earlier, also portrayed the shots being fired with impunity against stone-throwing protesters, whose only demand was respect for their beliefs and Holy Places. In refusing to receive the Secretary-General's mission provided for in Security Council resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990), the Zionist authorities had given proof of their arrogance and their utter disdain for the will of the international community; they had violated international instruments to which Israel was a party.

19. The Security Council, as the organ responsible for preserving peace, must abandon its moral double standard and uniformly condemn all violations of international law, all attacks on defenceless populations and any acquisition of territories by force and repression. As the Security Council currently did not possess the will to take similar action in similar situations, it was vital to respond to the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Council as requested in resolution 672 (1990) (S/21919 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2). Practical measures must be adopted for the protection of the Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. To that end, a group of

(Mr. Martinez Cordovez, Cuba)

non-aligned countries which were members of the Security Council had submitted a draft resolution (S/21933/Rev.1) aimed at ensuring such protection through the appointment of a United Nations commissioner ("ombudsman") to monitor the situation. It was his delegation's hope that the entire international community would support that initiative which, unfortunately, the Council had not taken up despite repeated requests by its sponsors. Another matter before the Security Council since February 1990 was settlement of the occupied territories by Jewish immigrants, a practice designed to alter the demographic composition of the territories. The international community must not countenance demographic change imposed on the territories and must adopt appropriate measures wherever there was evidence of such practices. The list of Palestinian casualties contained in document A/45/576 showed that most of the victims were between the ages of 13 and 19 years. That attempt to wipe out Palestinian youth might well reflect an intention to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territories.

20. Mr. POERNOMO (Indonesia) said that the Special Committee's latest report had confirmed the hardening of repression and the worsening of the already precarious living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The violation of the most fundamental international legal standards and norms of justice was taking place at every level. In its futile attempt to quell the rebellion by the occupied population, the occupation authorities had in the past month resorted to indiscriminate use of force, resulting in the deaths of more than 20 persons and scores of injured. The settlement programme had gone forward, making appalling changes in the demographic pattern, while at the same time exposing Israel's expansion policy, which was intended to create a de facto annexation of the territories. It was the younger generation that had paid most dearly for its heroic resistance to oppression. Its intellectual development had been severely curbed by the prolonged closure of educational institutions. There was also economic pressure in the form of tax raids, property seizure and the disruption of essential services. The impact of all those policies and practices had brought about a climate of frustration and insecurity, the stagnation of the Palestinian economy, the depletion of natural resources and the massive violations of human rights.

21. Aggravating the situation further was the action taken by Israel in permitting the new wave of Jewish immigrants to settle in the West Bank, in spite of the United Nations resolutions and international conventions forbidding it to change the demographic composition of the occupied territories. That new influx would irreversibly tilt the demographic balance and create heightened tension.

22. As events during the past year had demonstrated, Israel persisted in its efforts to impose its aggressive and expansionist designs on the region by force of arms. Those policies and practices had triggered an escalating spiral of violence, repression and armed resistance which posed a constant threat to regional peace and international security. Hence, the worsening plight of the Palestinian people continued to be a matter of grave concern to Member States. The usurpation of the national rights and the persistent denial of the human rights of an entire people were unacceptable to Indonesia. No solution which did not take into account the

(Mr. Poernomo, Indonesia)

rights and aspirations of the Palestinian would contribute to a just and durable peace and no negotiating process would be successful without the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on an equal footing with all other parties directly concerned.

23. The Organization's only real option was to bring its full authority to bear in order to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilians through measures such as establishing a properly mandated United Nations presence in the territory, convening a meeting of the parties to the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to discuss possible measures to be taken by them under the Convention, and moving decisively and expeditiously to convene the long-delayed International Peace Conference on the Middle East which would lead to the consolidation of the already proclaimed independent State in the Palestinian territory. The Palestinians had demonstrated their support for a negotiated settlement within the framework of an international conference. It was imperative for Israel to realize at last that the situation brooked no further delay, to withdraw from the occupied territories, and thereby to pave the way for the restoration of peace, security and stability in the region.

24. Mr. AMIN-MANSOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the documents before the Committee testified to the continued deterioration in economic, social and health conditions in the occupied territories. The Zionist entity had, during the period under consideration, continued its ruthless practices in the occupied territories and the Palestinian and other Arab inhabitants were still being deprived of the protection of the most basic rules and norms of international law.

25. The main goal of the Zionist entity was the realization of a "Greater Israel" by all available means. The imposition of harsh living conditions, suppression of the Palestinian people and insistence on new settlements were therefore not surprising. Economic pressure on the Palestinians had increased steadily, and the Special Committee's reports also provided many other examples of the savage repression by the occupation authorities. Continued immigration by Soviet Jews, and the increase in the number of new settlements and of arbitrary acts committed by armed settlers against Palestinian Muslims were other examples of the inhumane practices of Zionists in the occupied territories. The heroic uprising was the reaction of the unarmed Palestinians in the face of those ruthless measures. The usurping Power's persistence in massacring and ill-treating the oppressed people of Palestine and its total disregard of the will of the international community confirmed the fact that the resort to barbaric acts and expansionism were integral parts of the Zionist entity. Moreover, in the light of the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council (S/21919), there was no doubt that the political, economic and military support rendered by certain countries, particularly the United States, had encouraged that régime to continue its flagrant violation of human rights in the occupied territories.

26. There was no need to emphasize the responsibility of the international community for safeguarding the rights of the oppressed people of the occupied territories or the need to address the root causes of the problem and to use every

(Mr. Amin-Mansour, Iran)

means to restore the legitimate rights of the people of the occupied territories. His country, aware of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the heavy physical and psychological damage they had suffered, spared no effort to support their cause and believed that a just and lasting solution to the Middle East and Palestinian problems would have to include the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and the restoration of their independent State in the entire land of Palestine through the process of self-determination.

27. Mr. INBAR (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Zionist movement was the national liberation movement of the Jewish people and that Israel would continue to welcome the thousands of Jews who were fleeing anti-semitism in many parts of the world. In addition, the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Yemen were in no position to criticize Israel. It had been reported that at least 113 Iranians had been executed since March 1990.

28. Mr. AMIN-MANSOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on a point of order, said that the preceding speaker should confine his remarks to the agenda item under consideration.

29. Mr. INBAR (Israel) said that Iran's brutal methods of punishment and execution and its persecution of minorities were well known and that it was important to mention such facts so that the Committee could comprehend the situation in the Middle East and the countries involved in the conflict. The Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had engaged in aggression, territorial expansion, destabilization of neighbouring States and the use of internationally banned chemical weapons.

30. Mr. JELBAN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking on a point of order, said that the preceding speaker should not raise extraneous issues that were unconnected with the item under consideration, which was agenda item 75.

31. Mr. INBAR (Israel) said that his observations, which concerned the human rights situation in the Middle East, were within the scope of the agenda item under consideration. The Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had engaged in the stockpiling of toxic gas and the kidnapping of foreign nationals and had made the country the focal point of international terrorism and the embodiment of evil in the eyes of the world. The Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi had said that the problem of Palestine would not be solved until the 4 million Israeli Jews were slaughtered or forcibly deported to make room for a PLO State.

32. Mr. YOUSIF (Sudan), speaking on a point of order, urged the Chairman to rule the representative of Israel out of order, since his remarks went beyond the scope of the Committee's deliberations.

33. Mr. INBAR (Israel) said that Colonel Qaddafi had further stated that his forces would defeat Israel by every means necessary and that Palestine would be the cemetary of the Jews.

(Mr. Inbar, Israel)

34. The policies of the Yemeni Government included arbitrary detention, disappearances, mass death sentences, torture and the denial of basic human rights to millions of Yemenites. However, the representative of Yemen had preferred to attribute his own Government's crimes to Israel. Yemen was a pillar of extremism in the Middle East, which undermined moderation in the region. Palestinians in Yemen were confined to a camp and were closely watched by security police; their movements were severely restricted. It therefore seemed that the concepts of peace, diplomacy, human rights and self-determination in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Yemen were very different from those of the majority of the Members of the United Nations. However, Israel would not be diverted from the pursuit of peaceful coexistence. Although Israel was not beyond reproach, its image had suffered from misinterpretations, which must be corrected to establish a clear context for the debates on the Middle East. He hoped that the Palestinian people would be allowed freely and democratically to elect representatives to join in the negotiation process in order to create conditions under which Jews and Palestinian Arabs could live in peace.

35. Mr. AMIN-MANSOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was regrettable that the representative of the Zionist entity was once again raising irrelevant matters before the Committee.

36. Mr. INBAR (Israel), speaking on a point of order, said that the State of Israel was the official name of his country.

37. Mr. AMIN-MANSOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the preceding speaker had tried to divert the Committee's attention from his Government's crimes against the oppressed people in the occupied territories, particularly the Palestinians. It was incumbent on the international community to take urgent measures to end such practices and to restore the rights of the Palestinian people.

38. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer for Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, questioned the concern of the representative of Israel about the restriction of the movements of Palestinians in some areas of the Middle East, since the movements of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Israel had been restricted until 1967. Palestinian Israelis had not been allowed to move from town to town without a permit and had been subject to imprisonment if they stayed overnight outside their town of residence. In addition, there were thousands of examples of restriction of the movements of Palestinians in the occupied territories. The words of the representative of Israel should be matched by action to eliminate collective punishments and the other evils which were being perpetrated against Palestinians on a daily basis.

39. The statement by the representative of Israel that his Government was ready to negotiate with freely elected Palestinian representatives revealed a racist, cavalier attitude. Israel was in no position to decide who those representatives should be, and experience had shown that the Palestine Liberation Organization was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. However, the idea of holding such elections was acceptable to his delegation, as long as the elections

(Mr. Mansour, Observer, Palestine)

took place under international supervision through the United Nations. The elections should be part of a process leading to the convening of an International Peace Conference to negotiate a peace treaty for the Middle East. He recalled that the Israeli Government had not allowed elections to take place since 1976 and that those elected in 1976 had been illegally removed from office. If Israel was concerned about Palestinian elections, it should reinstate those officials. The PLO had not attempted to select the representatives of Israel with whom it wished to negotiate, and so Israel should not seek to do so in its dealings with the representatives of Palestine.

40. Mr. ALSAIDI (Yemen), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Israeli representative's remarks concerning Yemen were fabrications. Moreover, instead of responding to the points mentioned in the statement of the representative of Yemen, the Israeli representative had used diversionary tactics to avoid discussing the issue under consideration. Finally, he reassured the Committee that democracy reigned in Yemen but said that the Israeli delegate was unable to appreciate that fact because his racist mentality distorted his perception of events.

41. Mr. JELBAN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the Zionist entity had tried to divert attention from the tragic situation in the occupied territories.

42. Mr. INBAR (Israel), speaking on a point of order, said that the name of his country was the State of Israel, as accepted by the United Nations and the international community.

43. Mr. JELBAN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the representative of the Zionist entity was involved in fabricating prejudiced campaigns against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. He referred to the reports before the Committee, which indicated that the Zionist entity had shot down a Libyan civilian airliner, had violated the territorial integrity of Tunisia and had killed members of the PLO. Its Government was known to contain a number of terrorists. Moreover, it was inappropriate for the representative of the Zionist entity to speak of freedom, since his Government considered itself free to hold other religions in contempt, to desecrate Muslim and Christian Holy Places, to injure children and to use poison gas against civilians.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.